

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 08318 241249Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
INR-10 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-09
SOE-02 DODE-00 DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PM-05
SAS-02 PA-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /126 W
-----095012 241256Z /50

O R 241140Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8801
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MNUC, TECH, PK, FR, US
SUBJECT: REPROCESSING - PRESS TREATMENT

REF: STATE 214621

1. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SWEARING-IN OF NEW CIVILIAN CABINET
EVENING OF AUGUST 23, CMLA ZIA MET WITH PRESS AND ANSWERED
QUESTIONS ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS. TOPIC OF REPROCESSING CAME UP
WHEN LOCAL REPORTER ASKED GENERAL ZIA "HAVE YOU HEARD FROM
PARIS?" ZIA RESPONDED WITH LECTURE ON HOW TO ASK QUESTIONS
THEN PROCEEDED TO ANSWER THE SPIRIT OF THE QUESTION AT SOME
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LENGTH.

2. EMBASSY IS ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN ACTUAL TRANSCRIPT OR
RECORDING OF GENERAL ZIA'S ANSWER AS THERE IS SOME UNCER-
TAINTY AS TO WHAT HE ACTUALLY SAID. REUTERS REPORT (REFTEL)
SAYS ZIA UNEQUIVOCAL ON FRENCH CANCELLATION OF CONTRACT.
EMBASSY LOCALS WHO OBSERVED CONFERENCE ON TELEVISION, HOW-

EVER, DIVIDED AS TO WHETHER STATEMENT WAS MADE.

3. NOTWITHSTANDING DISAGREEMENT ON WHAT GENERAL ZIA SAID, THERE SEEMS TO BE LITTLE DISAGREEMENT AS TO WHAT HE MEANT. ENGLISH LANGUAGE NATIONAL PRESS TRUST OWNED " PAKISTAN TIMES" REPORTS CONFERENCE IN SUCH A WAY AS TO GIVE NO HINT FINAL CANCELLATION HAS TAKEN PLACE. URDU "TAMEER" (PRO-PPP0 HOWEVER BANNERS ITS FRONT PAGE WITH "FRANCE HAS REFUSED TO GIVE NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT." INDEPENDENT DAILY "JANG" HEDGES ISSUE WITH HEADLINE "PAKISTAN WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO ACQUIRE REPROCESSING PLANT, " WHILE " NAWAIWAQT" FRONT PAGE SAYS "PAKISTAN WILL NOT LAG BEHIND IN NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY DESPITE ALL HURDLES. FRANCE HAS EXPRESSED ITS INABILITY TO IMPLEMENT THE DEAL."

4. THE NAWAIWAQT ARTICLE CONTINUES "IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION AS TO WHETHER FRANCE HAS REFUSED TO SUPPLY THE REPROCESSING PLANT, GENERAL ZIA SAID 'YES, IT IS UNFORTUNATE'. FRANCE HAS SENT A LOVING LETTER MENTIONING SPECIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH PAKISTAN AND HAS SHOWN SYMPATHY BUT HAS ADDED THAT FRANCE CANNOT HONOR THE DEAL UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES."

5. EMBASSY EXPECTS EDITORIAL REACTION TO BEGIN APPEARING WITHIN FEW DAYS. WILL ALSO REPORT TEXT OF ACTUAL ZIA REMARKS ON REPROCESSING WHEN AVAILABLE. HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, RESEARCH, NUCLEAR FUELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Film Number: D780346-0880
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From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780829/aaaaaxws.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Content Flags:
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